

Putting Feet to Your Feet

Acts 2:25-47

- The Holy Spirit has just come upon **120** men-women in the Upper Room, making the sound of a tornado but without the wind or damage, this caused a crowd to gather around the disciples to inquire what is going on, and when they hear people speaking languages that they've never learned, from countries that they've never been, it caused quite a stir to say the least. **V7** says the crowd being both curious and amazed by what their hearing and seeing ask the question **"how is it we hear each in our own languages testimony of the wonderful works of God"**.
- **Translation:** you people are Galilean, your fishermen, farmers, village folk out in the country, you haven't trained in the universities, yet your able to communicate to us in our native tongues wonderful, joyful, truths about God, how is this possible! This is the second question they've been asked in the book, the first is found in **1:11**- when two Angels asked them **"why are you standing here looking up instead of following Jesus instructions and going back to Jerusalem and wait for the moving of the Holy Spirit to come upon you and equip you for service"**.
- This is our New Year message right here, instead of focusing on what is happening around us we need to remember what Jesus and scripture has said to us, when through the parable of the nobleman > **Lk 19:13** were told to **"Occupy until He comes"** to busy oneself in the business of the Lord and not be consumed by the distraction of the world. Once we stop just standing around, then we'll find ourselves in a place where the Holy Spirit can use us and He'll empower us, and you won't have to look for the opportunities, they'll come to you like this crowd.

V25-47

- **V14** Peter stands up and begins his first public sermon by doing two things **1st** he begins and ends with scripture, making sure every example he uses is found either in chapter and verse or in biblical principle, **2nd** he preaches Jesus and Him alone, not experience, or exalting himself, he wants the people to know that salvation is found in Christ and Him alone. **V25-31** now he continues those themes by saying through the Psalms David regularly spoke of someone that was greater than Himself, and that Person is Jesus Christ > **Ps 16:8-11**.
- Again Peter uses scripture to prove his point and he preaches Jesus as His theme, notice he calls Jesus **"The Holy One"** **V27**, stating that although Jesus bore the full wrath of God on the cross, and took on the full weight of our sin, even being made sin for us according to **2 Cor 5:21**, that act of grace and mercy did not make Jesus Himself a sinner like you and me, He still remained Perfect, which allowed Him to be the perfect sacrifice that God the Father would accept.
- **V32-33** then he says of Israel's greatest King, (David) that he is both dead and buried, but Jesus the Messiah has been raised from the dead, which we are all witnesses, and this that you are a party to is part of that witness, one in which you cannot deny, as it is a work of the Holy Spirit.

- **V34-36** next he quotes **Ps 110**, again we know that this is a work of the Holy Spirit because nowhere in the gospels have we ever seen Peter be this much of a student of scripture, yet God is bringing to his remembrance everything that he needs, to reach those who are listening to the message, because he is speaking to a religious and devout crowd. This is deep, because to say that the greatest King in Israel's history needed another to redeem him, and that person is He that you beat, rejected, and crucified, meant I now need to repent, re-evaluate what I believe, and then receive Him Whom I had previously rejected, Peter has now put the onus on them.
- **V37** says "**they were cut to the heart**" **Jn 16:7-9** says the Holy Spirit will take what is said and use it to convict hearts, we don't need to try and convict anyone, the Holy Spirit will do that Himself. A third question is asked of the disciples > "**what shall we do**"? They now know what we know, that our sins were responsible for the death of Jesus, and that were guilty of putting Him on the cross, not the Romans, or Pilate, or some religious group, it was my and our sin that nailed Him to the cross. What's interesting is that God chose to use Peter to illuminate this.
- **Jn 18:10** - Peter responding in the flesh cut off a man's ear to try and protect Jesus from being arrested, Jesus told him to put up the sword, then He cleaned up Peter's mess by healing the man's ear. When the resurrected Jesus changed Peter's heart, and the Holy Spirit came upon him and equipped him for ministry, he again takes out the sword but it's not a natural one but a spiritual one which is the Word, and he does some more cutting, but instead of cutting off ears and things needed for hearing, making himself ineffective, he's **cutting hearts** and opening them up to Jesus, which is **effective cutting**, and more of what the Lord intended for His children.
- **V38-40** in response to the question "what shall we do" Peter says "**repent**" which means turn from your way of thinking, seeing, and believing, and trust Jesus, which brings us to the next point, be willing to publicly be baptized in His name, this will tell everyone that you are now a true follower of Him. Baptism doesn't save us, it testifies to unbelievers who we belong to, and it signifies that our old man has died and that the new man lives within us making us a new man.
- **V41** those who received the word and believed on Jesus did so **gladly** and not **sadly**, this is very important, as the gospel is called the good news and not the bad news. Notice this wasn't a half faith but a whole faith, as three things happened in this verse > **1st** people were truly born again- by evidence of them receiving the Word, **2nd** declaration of faith- publicly baptized proving their allegiances had changed, **3rd** Addition to the church- **3,000** added to the body.
- **V42-** we see the foundation for spiritual growth for just as its critical for a new born to be cared for so it is for new believers to be nurtured as well. You see teaching taking place in the Apostles doctrine, fellowship, communion, and prayer, these are essential to the health of every believer. **V43-47** here are the results > **fear-** awe and awareness of the greatness of God, and a deep healthy respect of His holiness, **miracles, caring, hospitality, praise and worship, growth-** as healthy sheep multiply.